A WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

~~Patent Claims~~

1. Method for overload protection for an exchange, according to which the neighboring exchanges of an exchange which detects an overload of itself are informed of the level of the overload congestion via a congestion value that is specified network-wide,

characterized in that

in a neighboring exchange, an effective congestion value is computed from the information of several of said overload congestion values and is used for controlling the protective measures of this neighboring exchange with respect to the congested exchange.

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2. Method as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that

the overload congestion value is respectively transferred in a call processing message, whereby, when a call processing message arrives without an overload congestion value, the missing congestion information is interpreted as congestion value 0 and is integrated into the computation of the effective congestion value.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

said effective overload congestion value is computed in that, upon expiration of a definite time interval, an average value is formed with the aid of congestion values received during the time interval, and this average value is utilized to calculate the current effective ~~congestion value~~.

4. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
said current effective congestion value is computed in that, upon expiration of a time interval, a current effective congestion value is computed with the aid of the average value of the congestion values received within the time interval and of the effective congestion value that was computed at the end of the preceding time interval.

5. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
the effective congestion value is calculated in that time-interval-related average values [A(j)] are formed from the congestion values that are received in consecutive time intervals, these average values are then weighted [w[j] · A(j)], and lastly the weighted average values are added over a time frame [$\sum$w[j] · A(j)], producing a weighted average.

6. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
said effective congestion value is computed from the last effective congestion value and the average value of the congestion values received within the last time interval in that, when said average value is greater than a specific first threshold value, an effective congestion value is formed which is elevated by a specific first value relative to the last effective congestion value, and, when said average value is less than a specific second threshold value, an effective congestion value is formed which is reduced by a specific second value.

7. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that
said effective congestion value is respectively updated upon reception of a congestion value, the current effective congestion value being computed with the aid of the previous effective congestion value and the received congestion value.

8. Method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 7,
characterized in that
said effective congestion value is only computed when congestion has been established; that is, when at least one positive congestion value has been received within a definite past time frame.

9. Method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 8,
characterized in that
said congestion value is a matter of an ACL value in accordance with an ACC standard.

10. Method as claimed as claimed **[sic]** in one of the claims 1 to 9,
characterized in that
said protective measure of a neighboring exchange is a matter of a denial of calls or an alternate routing of calls.

11. Method as claimed in one of the claims 1 to 10,
characterized in that
said effective congestion value is mapped onto a protection control value, in accordance with which a neighboring exchange controls the protective measure it implements.

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